

Patent
42478-8900

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A broadcasting apparatus that broadcasts broadcast programs, each of which is to be reproduced by a receiving apparatus in a reproduction time period between a reproduction starting time and a reproduction finishing time, the broadcasting apparatus comprising:

a scheduling unit operable to generate a schedule for transmitting the broadcast programs, the schedule including a transmission starting time and a transmission finishing time for each broadcast program, and

wherein the scheduling unit generates the schedule so that (a) as for a specific program among the broadcast programs, a transmission starting time is set at a time which is a predetermined amount of time before the reproduction starting time of the specific program and a transmission finishing time is set at the reproduction starting time of the specific program, and (b) as for a broadcast program other than the specific program, a transmission starting time is set at the reproduction starting time of the broadcast program and a transmission finishing time is set at the reproduction finishing time of the broadcast program,

the predetermined amount of time in the schedule generated by the scheduling unit is a time period necessary for transmitting the specific program at least once,

the scheduling unit includes a generation unit operable to generate (a) first messages which designate the receiving apparatus to store the specific program in a storing unit within the receiving apparatus and (b) a second message which designates the receiving apparatus to reproduce the specific program stored in the storing unit; and

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a transmission unit operable to transmit (a) the first messages for a duration from the transmission starting time to the transmission finishing time of the specific program, and (b) the second message in the reproduction time period of the specific program,

the transmission unit transmits contents including scripts control, for a duration from a broadcasting starting time of the specific program to a reproduction finishing time of the specific program,

and the scripts for control perform control so that (a) the specific program is stored in case of receiving the first messages and (1), the specific program is reproduced in case of receiving the second message.

12. (Previously Presented) The broadcasting apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the generation unit is operable to generate a third message to delete a program stored in the storing unit.

13. (Previously Presented) A broadcasting method of a broadcasting apparatus that broadcasts broadcast programs, each of which is to be reproduced by a receiving apparatus in a reproduction time period between a reproduction starting time and a reproduction finishing time, the broadcasting method comprising:

a scheduling step of generating a schedule for transmitting the broadcast programs, the schedule including a transmission starting time and a transmission finishing time for each broadcast program; and

a transmission step of transmitting each broadcast program only in the time period between the transmission starting time and the transmission finishing time according to the schedule,

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wherein in the scheduling step, the schedule is generated so that (a) as for a specific program among the broadcast programs, a transmission starting time is set at a time which is a predetermined amount of time before the reproduction starting time of the specific program and a transmission finishing time is set at the reproduction starting time of the specific program, and (b) as for a broadcast program other than the specific program, a transmission starting time is set at the reproduction starting time of the broadcast program and a transmission finishing time is set at the reproduction finishing time of the broadcast program,

the predetermined amount of time in the schedule generated in the scheduling step is a time period necessary for transmitting the specific program at least once,

the scheduling step includes a generation step of generating (a) first messages which designate the receiving apparatus to store the specific program in a storing unit within the receiving apparatus and (b) a second message which designates the receiving apparatus to reproduce the specific program stored in the storing unit,

the transmission step transmits (a) the first messages for a duration from the transmission starting time to the transmission finishing time of the specific program, and (b) the second message in the reproduction time period of the specific program,

in the transmission step, contents including scripts for control is transmitted for a duration from a broadcasting starting time of the specific program to a reproduction finishing time of the specific program,

and the scripts for control perform control so that (a) the specific program is stored in case of receiving the first messages and (b) the specific program is reproduced in case of receiving the second message

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14. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable recording medium storing therein a program, the program making a computer of a broadcasting apparatus execute steps, the broadcasting apparatus broadcasting broadcast programs, each of which is to be reproduced by a receiving apparatus in a reproduction time period between a reproduction starting time and a reproduction finishing time, the steps being:

a scheduling step of generating a schedule for transmitting the broadcast programs, the schedule including a transmission starting time and a transmission finishing time for each broadcast program; and

a transmission step of transmitting each broadcast program only in the time period between the transmission starting time and the transmission finishing time according to the schedule,

wherein in the scheduling step, the schedule is generated so that (a) as for a specific program among the broadcast programs, a transmission starting time is set at a time which is a predetermined amount of time before the reproduction starting time of the specific program and a transmission finishing time is set at the reproduction starting time of the specific program, and (b) as for a broadcast program other than the specific program, a transmission starting time is set at the reproduction starting time of the broadcast program and a transmission finishing time is set at the reproduction finishing time of the broadcast program,

the predetermined amount of time in the schedule generated in the scheduling step is a time period necessary for transmitting the specific program at least once,

the scheduling step includes a generation step of generating (a) first messages which designate the receiving apparatus to store the specific program in a storing unit within the

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receiving apparatus and (b) a second message which designates the receiving apparatus to reproduce the specific program stored in the storing unit,

the transmission step transmits (a) the first messages for a duration from the transmission starting time to the transmission finishing time of the specific program, and (b) the second message in the reproduction time period of the specific program,

in the transmission step, contents including scripts for control is transmitted for a duration from a broadcasting starting time of the- specific program to a reproduction finishing time of the specific program,

and the scripts for control perform control so that (a) the specific program is stored in case of receiving the first messages and (b) the specific program is reproduced in case of receiving the second message.

15. (Previously Presented) A program making a computer of a broadcasting apparatus to execute steps, the broadcasting apparatus broadcasting broadcast programs, each of which is to be reproduced by a receiving apparatus in a reproduction time period between a reproduction starting time and a reproduction finishing time, the steps being:

a scheduling step of generating a schedule for transmitting the broadcast programs, the schedule including a transmission starting time and a transmission finishing time for each broadcast program; and

a transmission step of transmitting each broadcast program only in the time period between the transmission starting time and the transmission finishing time according to the schedule,

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wherein in the scheduling step, the schedule is generated so that (a) as for a specific program among the broadcast programs, a transmission starting time is set at a time which is a predetermined amount of time before the reproduction starting time of the specific program and a transmission finishing time is set at the reproduction starting time of the specific program, and (b) as for a broadcast program other than the specific program, a transmission starting time is set at the reproduction starting time of the broadcast program and a transmission finishing time is set at the reproduction finishing time of the broadcast program,

the predetermined amount of time in the schedule generated in the scheduling step is a time period necessary for transmitting the specific program at least once,

the scheduling step includes a generation step of generating (a) first messages which designate the receiving apparatus to store the specific program in a storing unit within the receiving apparatus and (b) a second message which designates the receiving apparatus to reproduce the specific program stored in the storing unit,

the transmission step transmits (a) the first messages for a duration from the transmission starting time to the transmission finishing time of the specific program, and (b) the second message in the reproduction time period of the specific program, in the transmission step, contents including scripts for control is transmitted for a duration from a broadcasting starting time of the specific program to a reproduction finishing time of the specific program,

and the scripts for control perform control so that (a) the specific program is stored in case of receiving the first messages and (b) the specific program is reproduced in case of receiving the second message.